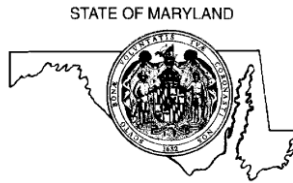


Marilyn Moon, Ph.D.
CHAIR



Rex W. Cowdry, M.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

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MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

Thursday, July 17, 2008
Minutes

Chair Moon called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Chair Moon welcomed Randall Worthington to the Commission, noting that Governor O'Malley appointed Mr. Worthington to the Commission on July 1st and that he was sworn in on July 7th.

Commissioners present: Conway, Falcone, Krumm, McLean, Moore, Olsen, Pollak, Todd, Wilensky, and Worthington.

ITEM 1.

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Moore made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2008 meeting of the Commission, which was seconded by Commissioner Falcone and unanimously approved.

ITEM 2.

Update of Activities

Dr. Rex Cowdry, Executive Director, advised the Commission that a public meeting of the Commission would be held by teleconference on August 5, 2008, in order to take final action on proposed regulations regarding the Premium Subsidy Plan.

Ben Steffen, Director, Center for Data Systems and Analysis, said the spotlight "Paying for Physician Care in Maryland: What Are the Factors Contributing to Differences Across Specialties?" will be released today. He said the Spotlight explores differences in physician reimbursement across specialties, with a focus on how payment levels are related to the expected time and work involved in providing primary care and other services. Mr. Steffen also noted that the brief is designed to assist the Health Care Access and Reimbursement Task Force in examining approaches to improving primary care through changes in the delivery of services or in physician compensation.

David Sharp, Director, Center for Information Technology, said that staff attended an all day work session at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to practice recruitment strategies for the EHR Demonstration Project. He said that Maryland is one of four communities identified to begin this program in August.

ITEM 3.

PROPOSED ACTION: COMAR 10.25.14.01 – Health Care Data Collection from Maryland Health Care Practitioners

Ben Steffen, Director, Information Services and Analysis, presented proposed regulations that will formalize data sharing between the Board of Physicians and the Maryland Health Care Commission. He said the proposed regulations will not broaden the Commission's authority, but will formalize the use of data. Mr. Steffen asked the Commission to adopt the proposed regulations. Commissioner Krumm made a motion to adopt the regulations, which was seconded by Commissioner Todd, and unanimously approved.

ACTION: COMAR 10.25.14.01 – Health Care Data Collection from Maryland Health Care Practitioners are hereby ADOPTED as Proposed Permanent Regulations.

ITEM 4.

ACTION: Certificate of Need – Citizens Nursing Home of Frederick County, Docket No. 08-10-2227

Paul Parker, Chief of Certificate of Need, said that Citizens Nursing Home of Frederick County, which does business as Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Center, applied for a Certificate of Need to build a replacement facility on part of its existing site. Mr. Parker said that the facility, which is owned by Frederick County, consists of a two-story building totaling 66,000 square feet, and does not meet current design guidelines for room occupancy, bathing facilities, or accessibility for persons with physical disabilities. Mr. Parker said the estimated cost for the Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Center's proposed replacement facility is \$35,275,419, consisting of \$35,057,560 in capital cost and \$217,859 in financing and other cash requirements. He said there were no interested parties in this review and that the proposed project is in compliance with all applicable State Health Plan standards and Certificate of Need review criteria. For these reasons, staff recommended approval of the project. Commissioner Falcone made a motion to approve the staff recommendation, which was seconded by Commissioner Moore, and unanimously approved.

ACTION: Certificate of Need – Citizens Nursing Home of Frederick County, Docket No. 08-10-2227 is hereby APPROVED.

ITEM 5.

Presentation: Update on Revisions to the State Health Plan Chapter for Acute Care Hospital Services (COMAR 10.24.10)

Mr. Parker provided an overview of the revision process for Acute Care Hospital Services Chapter of the State Health Plan, including key revisions proposed to the Chapter and bed need projections for medical/surgical and pediatric beds. He also reviewed the issues raised during an informal public

comment process on the draft chapter released in May 2008. Mr. Parker said that, at the September meeting, the Acute Care Hospital Services Chapter will be presented to the Commission for adoption as proposed permanent regulations, and that staff will summarize the informal comments received on the draft Chapter, and provide its recommendations regarding those comments. Mr. Parker said that Matt Power, Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning had submitted comments recommending certain changes regarding requirements for hospital location. He advised the Commission that staff would convene its Acute Care Workgroup in August to discuss the recommendations made by the Department of Planning, as well as other issues. He then introduced Matt Power to the Commission. Mr. Power briefed the Commission, summarizing the Department of Planning's concerns. He discussed the importance of smart and sustainable growth principles, as well as the role of priority funding areas and protected lands. Mr. Power asked the Commission to consider smart and sustainable growth policies in the siting of hospitals in the State Health Plan Chapter.

ITEM 6.

Presentation: Assessment of Disparities in Potentially Avoidable Hospitalization of Maryland Medicare Beneficiaries: Study Context and Methods

Linda Bartnyska, Chief of Cost and Quality Analysis, discussed the goals of the project. Ms. So O'Neill, Researcher, and Dr. Tim Lake, Senior Researcher, of Mathematica Policy Research, provided an overview of the study plan. Dr. Lake said the primary goals were to assess racial, socioeconomic, and geographical disparities in hospitalization rates for ambulatory care sensitive conditions (ACSCs) and to estimate potential cost-savings from reductions in the ACSC hospitalization rates. He also said that differences in rates may indicate disparities in access to care or quality of care. Ms. O'Neill discussed the analysis approach: selection of particular ACSC measures; the study parameters (including use of Maryland Medicare Beneficiaries as the study population); and the data sources. She also discussed the methodologies for calculating hospitalization rates and costs, as well as how disparities will be assessed, and provided some preliminary results. Ms. O'Neill said the final report and issue brief will be presented to the Commission in the Fall.

ITEM 7.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m., upon motion of Commissioner Falcone, which was seconded by Commissioner Conway, and unanimously approved.